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Human Overpopulation: A New Perspective

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Could Humanity Go Extinct?

Based on "Human Overpopulation: A New Perspective" by Ryan Nooe

What is the Problem?

The problem is **human overpopulation**. Because the Earth is a finite area, it can neither support nor hold an infinite number of people. As long as population increases, space in general decreases. Overpopulation also contributes to problems such as climate change, deforestation, and pollution of the global environment.

What is the Support?

It has been projected by some that population is starting to level out. However, estimations from the United States Census Bureau do not support this claim. Data collected in December 2012 shows a current population growth rate of approximately 1,010,396,946 (just over a billion) people every 13 years. Even if population is "leveling out", this would require a significant decrease in the number of people on Earth. Consider, as a comparison of how many people this would be, perhaps the worst mass-death event in recorded history: World War II. Around 63 million people were lost in this war, and if we lost that same number now it would only amount to less than 1% of the population. Even if there were 5 such wars occurring simultaneously, it would be a decrease in population of less than 5%. A re-stabilizing of the population would require a significant decrease of humans on Earth, and the only question is: do we want to control such regulation or allow nature to, indiscriminately, fix the problem?

What are the Solutions?

- **Do nothing** (allow the worst possible outcome to occur through ignorance, arrogance, or stupidity)
- **Relocate** a portion of the population to somewhere beyond Earth (avoids mass-death event; currently not possible or cost-effective)
- **Regulate** population (lowering birth rates, humanely and logically increasing death rates).

Compared to extinction, any alternative is better.

As population increases…

Space for people	↓
Need for resources	↑
Consumption of resources	↑
Available resources per person	↓
Space for resources	↓
Extinction rate of non-human animals	↑
Habitats for non-human animals	↓

Vegetation	↓
Oxygen produced by vegetation	↓
Carbon dioxide produced by animals	↑
Carbon dioxide consumed by vegetation	↓
Need for water	↑
Available water per person	↓
Quality of water	↓

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